

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:  
5 monitoring utilization of a system resource;  
a data management process selectively performing I/O operations dependent upon  
the monitored utilization of the system resource.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said data management process is executed as a  
10 portion of a data backup application.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein selectively performing the I/O operations includes:  
allowing said I/O operations to be performed in response to the monitored  
utilization of the system resource falling below a predetermined threshold;  
15 and  
preventing said I/O operations from being performed in response to the monitored  
utilization of the system resource exceeding the predetermined threshold.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said I/O operations are performed in response to  
20 the monitored utilization of the system resource falling below a predetermined threshold  
for at least a predetermined amount of time.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein selectively performing the I/O operations further  
includes allowing said I/O operations to be performed in response to said I/O operations  
25 not having been performed for longer than a predetermined timeout period.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said system resource is an input/output (I/O  
subsystem.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising selectively time slicing said I/O operations dependent upon the monitored utilization of the system resource.

8. A method comprising:

5 performing a plurality of I/O operations to complete a data management process executed by an application,  
wherein the application separates said plurality of I/O operations with intermittent delays to achieve time-slicing of said data management process with respect to one or more other applications running on said system.

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9. The system of claim 8 wherein said intermittent delays are dependent upon the monitored utilization of a system resource.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said data management process is a process  
15 performed by a data backup application.

11. A system comprising at least one processor and a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory includes program instructions executable to implement a method comprising:

20 monitoring utilization of a system resource;  
a data management process selectively performing I/O operations dependent upon the monitored utilization of the system resource.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said data management process is executed as a  
25 portion of a data backup application.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein selectively performing the I/O operations includes:

allowing said I/O operations to be performed in response to the monitored  
utilization of the system resource falling below a predetermined threshold;  
and  
preventing said I/O operations from being performed in response to the monitored  
5 utilization of the system resource exceeding the predetermined threshold.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said I/O operations are performed in response to  
the monitored utilization of the system resource falling below a predetermined threshold  
for at least a predetermined amount of time.

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15. The system of claim 13 wherein selectively performing the I/O operations further  
includes allowing said I/O operations to be performed in response to said I/O operations  
not having been performed for longer than a predetermined timeout period.

15 16. The system of claim 11 wherein said system resource is an input/output (I/O)  
subsystem.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein said system resource is one or more central  
processing units (CPUs).

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18. The system of claim 11 further comprising selectively time slicing said I/O  
operations dependent upon the monitored utilization of the system resource.

19. A system comprising:  
25 at least one processor;  
a memory coupled to the processor;  
wherein the memory includes program instructions forming an application  
executable to implement the method of performing a plurality of I/O  
operations to complete a data management process, wherein the data

management process performs said plurality of I/O operations separated by intermittent delays to achieve time-slicing of said data management process with respect to one or more other applications running on said system.

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20. The system of claim 19 wherein said intermittent delays are dependent upon the monitored utilization of a system resource.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein said data management process is a process  
10 performed by a data backup application.

22. A computer readable medium including program instructions executable to implement a method comprising:

monitoring utilization of a system resource;  
15 a data management process selectively performing I/O operations dependent upon the monitored utilization of the system resource.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein said data management process is executed as a portion of a data backup application.

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24. The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein selectively performing the I/O operations includes:

allowing said I/O operations to be performed in response to the monitored  
utilization of the system resource falling below a predetermined threshold;  
25 and  
preventing said I/O operations from being performed in response to the monitored  
utilization of the system resource exceeding the predetermined threshold.

25. A computer readable medium including program instructions executable to implement a method comprising:

5 performing a plurality of I/O operations to complete a data management process executed by an application, wherein the application separates said plurality of I/O operations with intermittent delays to achieve time-slicing of said data management process with respect to one or more other applications running on said system.

10 26. The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein said data management process is a process performed by a data backup application.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein said intermittent delays are dependent upon the monitored utilization of a system resource.